

The Alexandria Gazette

THURSDAY EVENING, DEC. 10.

The report of the U. S. Secretary of the navy states that at the present time there are 588 vessels, carrying 4443 guns, with a tonnage of 467,967. This is an increase during the year of 161 vessels, 1175 guns, and 127,931 tons. The report also gives a full exposition of the improvements that have been made in naval warfare.

It is announced that "Joshua C. Gunnell, an influential citizen of Fairfax county, Va., and an intimate friend of Gov. Smith, of Virginia, has received permission from the U. S. War Department to visit Richmond, for the purpose of obtaining the release of several Union men in Castle Thunder, captured by Moseby's guerillas in that county."

Yesterday afternoon, about 6 o'clock, Mrs. Dougherty, residing near the Alexandria Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad depot, was shot by a private of the 155th New York Volunteers, named John Sheridan, the ball entering her stomach, and inflicting a very serious wound. Sheridan was arrested by the military and is now confined in prison.

A destructive fire occurred yesterday afternoon in the dock at the foot of Christopher street, North river, New York. It originated in a schooner laden with hay, and about twenty sloops, barges and schooners, lying at different docks, were soon entirely destroyed. The loss will reach about \$500,000.

The Washington Chronicle says that "the report circulated a day or two since that Major General Meagher had been captured in Virginia was a false one, he being at the present time a guest of General Corcoran, at his headquarters, on the other side of the Potomac."

A dispatch from Boston says that the commander of the party who took the Chesapeake is Henry Braine. Lieut. Barr, one of Morgan's men, was second in command. They said they would attempt to run into Wilmington.

The costs of both sides in the litigation of the "Sickles Cut off" case noticed in yesterday's Gazette, and which has been before the Washington Courts for about eighteen years, it is said will be not less than \$20,000.

There is no news from either the Army of the Potomac or that of the Cumberland.—Gen. Grant is reported as perfecting his communications and repairing railroads.

Capt. J. G. C. Lee, has been appointed assistant Quartermaster at this place vice Ferguson, imprisoned on the charge of defrauding the U. S. government.

One or two persons, have recently been fined for selling "brandy peaches," which are considered "contraband" under the military orders relative to liquors, &c.

The report that Captain Snow, connected with the U. S. Quartermaster's Department here, had been arrested is untrue.

The steamship Ariel, from Aspinwall on the 28th ult., put into Hampton Roads, yesterday, out of coal. She brings five hundred and sixty passengers. Very heavy weather was experienced in her passage.

THE MESSAGE of Gov. F. H. Pickens has been published, and is quite a long document. The greater portion of it is occupied with his views in relation to the "secession of Virginia," (which secession, he of course, strongly condemns,) and an argument in relation to the "restored government" of the State. He says:

"The loyal people, are entitled to the protection of the Government; the disloyal are not entitled to this protection, but are subject to the punishment denounced by the laws against criminals and traitors—they have forfeited their rights by their crime."

In answer to the assertion that "a majority of the people of the State were rebels," he says: "Felon and pauper have no right to vote, neither have rebels; they cannot deprive the loyal of their rights, if the loyal can assert their rights," and he contends "that no counties of the State should hereafter be allowed a representation in the State government until they are organized by the election of officers, by whom the taxes can be collected."

A Convention he thinks will be necessary to district the State for the election of the Supreme Court—and by that Convention he proposes the question should be decided in favor of the abolition of slavery by an amendment of the Constitution. He says:—"The President's proclamation frees all in the State except in a few counties. Without this amendment to the Constitution, I foresee endless strife and turmoil. All the State officers are sworn to support the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Virginia. The laws of the State, as they now stand, recognize slavery. The officers will be called upon for warrants to apprehend slaves and commit them to jail. The army of the United States will interpose; thus a conflict will ensue, and rebels glory in the strife. We must either decide to come into antagonism with the United States or alter our organic law on this subject."

He defends the policy of requiring an oath of allegiance to the U. S. Government from persons taking out a State license, and recommends "a revision of the law, giving justices of the peace jurisdiction to fine clerks who fail to take the oath in a sum not exceeding twenty dollars for every offence, one-half to the informer, by declaring the whole stock in trade to be forfeited upon information before a county or circuit court, one-half to the informer if he files the information."

"In some of the counties all the land books and records of the county are destroyed or carried away. Great difficulty will be experienced in those counties in making out the land books for the assessment of taxes. Some legislation is needed on this subject."

He advises that the stay law which will expire on the 1st of January, be not re-enacted, and although "at a loss what advice to give in regard to the Banks," thinks they ought to be put in a state of liquidation. The following is the conclusion of the message:

When the Federal army has dispersed the rebel soldiery, it is the duty of the Executive to issue his proclamation requiring all the officers, civil and military, to take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States and the restored government of Virginia, as vindicated by the Convention which assembled at Wheeling on the eleventh day of June, 1861, anything in the so-called ordinances of secession, passed by the Convention which assembled at Richmond on the thirteenth day of February, 1861, to the contrary notwithstanding. Upon their failure to take the oath thus prescribed, it is the duty of the Executive to declare the offices vacant, and order an election of loyal men to fill them, which officers before entering upon their duties, have to take that oath; and I assure you, gentleman, that by the grace of God, so soon as the State shall be cleared of the domestic violence by the grand army of the United States, I will restore the government in all the counties of the State to loyal hands.

The question has been asked, "What will

you do, where all the people have gone into rebellion?" My answer is—"Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof!" The ancient prophet of Israel, in the fullness of his loyalty to the Almighty Sovereign, exclaimed! "They have all gone astray after strange Gods, there is none holy left in the land, no not one." But He, who sees the hearts of men, replied: "There are seven thousand in Israel who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So it is in Virginia; I have reliable information from a large portion of the State that, as soon as the domestic violence is suppressed, there will be more than enough of capable men, who have never bowed to secession, to welcome and carry on the government of the State and that of each county thereof."

LEGISLATIVE.—To-day a joint resolution for the procurement of a suitable Executive Mansion, properly furnished, was adopted by both branches of the Legislature in session in this place. A contested election case (J. W. Powell contesting the seat of — Killam, of Accomac,) occupied the time of the Senate till its adjournment, which was until to-morrow at 12 o'clock. Joseph Colton was chosen assistant Doorkeeper of the House of Delegates, in which body, petitions from Alexandria were presented for a remission of taxes for 1861, 1862 and 1863. Two bills were introduced, one to amend the 2d section of chapter 158 of the Code, in relation to Circuit judges, and the other to amend the 21st section of the 8th chapter of the Code in relation to vacancies occasioned in offices of clerks of courts, after which, an adjournment took place until Monday at 11 o'clock A. M.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT NOTICE

TO THE LADIES OF ALEXANDRIA, VA.
FROM this day till after New Year's day, I promise to sell my whole stock of DRY GOODS at the most astonishing cheap prices. The very best quality of Calico, at 20 cts. per yard.

De Laines from 25 cts. to 30 cts. per yard; Fine Bleached Muslin 1 yard wide at 25 cts. per yard; Double Shawls, the latest style out, from \$5.00 up; all wool Marinoses from 35 cts. to 65 cts. per yard; Black Cloth Cloaks at all prices.

Blankets, the very best quality and all wool, at \$6.00 a pair; Hoop Skirts with 40 springs at \$1.25 a pair; Hoods, Corsets and hundreds of other articles at the same rates.

If you want to save 25 cts. on every dollar, come to buy your goods at the cheap place of

S. ROSEWALD,
178, King street.
dec 10—tf 2 doors above Washington.

A CARD.

DANIEL SHAY,
MERCHANT TAILOR,

HAVING taken the stand formerly occupied by W. & A. Murray, No. 19, North Fairfax street, is prepared to fill all orders entrusted to him, and promises to keep up the reputation of his predecessors. dec 9—tf

FINE CABBAGE &c. for sale by the hundred at the Provision Store, No. 11 Fairfax street. dec 8—3t

NOTICE.

A SMALL AND WELL SELECTED STOCK OF GROCERIES, SHOP FIXTURES, HOUSEHOLD AND KITCHEN FURNITURE, &c., FOR SALE. Also the STORE FOR RENT. Call at 129, corner Duke and St. Asaph streets.

If the above GOODS are not sold at private sale by Tuesday, the 15th December, they will be offered for sale at Public Auction, on that day, on the premises. Sale to commence at 10 o'clock. dec 8—6t

CHAMPAGNE CIDER.
20 bbls. superior CHAMPAGNE CIDER, in store and for sale by
E. HENDERSON,
226 King St., cor. Alfred.
nov 13—